

## Submission in response to Decision 23/CP.18 by GenderCC-Women for Climate Justice e.V.

concerning views on options and ways to advance the goal of gender balance in bodies established pursuant to the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, in order to improve women's participation and inform more effective climate change policy that addresses the needs of women and men equally

**GenderCC** believes that we need a triple jump to foster gender equality, namely

- (1) Women into decision making (gender balance);
- (2) Provisions to ensure that women get their equal share, be it information, resources, or finance;
- (3) Genuine gender approaches in all policies related to climate change.

**GenderCC** has chosen to provide a Q&A in order to shed some more light on the issue.

### Questions and Answers on gender sensitive climate policy

#### Why gender balance and what can we expect from advancing gender balance?

Gender balance in planning and decision-making is just a necessity in terms of human rights. It may lead to more informed and sound decisions, taking women's perspectives and preferences into account. There are indications that a higher proportion of women in decision-making positions can in fact make a difference for some policy areas. Yet, gender balance does not guarantee that gender issues are addressed and that gender expertise is available, because women do not necessarily have a gender perspective, just as men might not have one.

Nevertheless, striving for gender parity is a valuable first step towards gender equality in the climate change context.

#### Why do we need gender sensitive policies?

Gender differentials play a role in carbon footprints, in vulnerabilities, preferences and needs, capabilities, and socio-economic impacts of policies. If these differentials are not taken into consideration properly, policies will be less effective, even ambitious climate policies might not meet their targets, and, moreover, existing gender based discrimination may be exacerbated.

Moreover, it can be expected that climate policy will be more effective, if both women and men are addressed and actively involved, and if their different needs, capacities and opportunities, and access to resources are taken into consideration, not only as decision-makers, but also as consumers, caregivers, commuters, entrepreneurs, educators, and so forth.

#### **What would gender sensitive policies look like?**

In many sectors, a gender perspective will lead to changing priorities. For instance, taking women's preferences into account may lead to favouring low-risk mitigation options such as renewable energies, rather than nuclear energy or CCS; improved public transport systems, rather than biofuel vehicles; and life-style changes, rather than only technology-based options. For adaptation, priorities might shift towards enhancing resilience of communities and improving infrastructure and services for water supply and sanitation instead of, e.g., building large dams.

Furthermore, the design of policies and measures may need to be altered after a Gender Impact Assessment has been carried out. For instance, gender sensitive policies would take distributional effects into consideration. E.g. subsidies for clean cars favour car-owners and neglect those who walk or take public transport (mostly women), if not complemented by other measures to promote clean transport modes.

#### **What is the difference between a gender sensitive and a pro-poor approach?**

Even within poor populations, women have special vulnerabilities due to their traditional roles. Under climate change, gender-differentiated roles and responsibilities in households burden women with ensuring food security, gender gaps in income put women at risk of energy poverty, and mobility constraints of women due to cultural factors limit their coping capacity in times of disaster. A gender sensitive approach must take this additional discrimination into account.

Moreover, for planning processes at local levels, e. g. community based adaptation, special provisions have to be made to meaningfully involve women and to empower them to raise their concerns and encourage others listen to what they have to say, rather than only ensuring parity in terms of numbers.

#### **How can gender sensitive financing be put into practice?**

Firstly, priorities must address the needs of both women and men, and access modalities must ensure gender-just spending.

Secondly, special actions and programmes should be developed that are directly suited to tackle the structural discrimination of women.

Thirdly, monitoring of the spending must include gender budgeting and seek to disaggregate the effects by gender in terms of the direct and indirect benefits, in order to revise and further develop programmes accordingly.

### What steps should be taken next?

For adaptation, it is well established that policies should be gender responsive, due to gender differentials in vulnerabilities. Yet, there are still major gaps to be closed in terms of planning and implementation of adaptation projects and programmes, and enhancing resilience. **GenderCC** recommends to provide more guidance on gender approaches for all activities under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and to include gender criteria for finance, in particular by the Adaptation Fund.

As for mitigation and low carbon development, awareness of the gender dimensions is still lacking, although substantial work has been done to reveal, and address, gender issues in energy and transport policy. **GenderCC** recommends to compile existing experience in the sectors relevant for mitigation and make it available, and to develop further and apply widely methodologies such as Gender Impact Assessments.

As further steps, **GenderCC** recommends to provide capacity-building on gender approaches, methods and tools and involve gender experts at all policy and planning levels.

As for the negotiations, **GenderCC** calls for including gender justice as a crucial element of a human-rights based approach.

Finally, **GenderCC** is calling for a Special IPCC Report on gender and climate policy, in order to compile and review the large, but fragmented body of existing information and knowledge on the gender dimensions of mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building and their effects, gender sensitive strategies and tools, and monitoring approaches.

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**GenderCC - Women for Climate Justice** is the global network of women and gender activists and experts from all world regions working for gender and climate justice.

More information: <http://www.gendercc.net>

GenderCC's Global Learning Platform: <http://comm.gendercc.net>

A history of Gender in the UNFCCC process:  
<http://www.gendercc.net/policy/conferences.html>

GenderCC's toolkit for decision-makers:  
<http://www.gendercc.net/fileadmin/inhalte/Dokumente/Tools/toolkit-gender-cc-web.pdf>

GenderCC's literature data base:  
<http://www.gendercc.net/resources/database-literature.html>